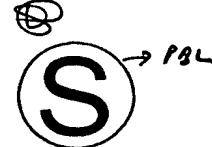


PATENT COOPERATION TREATY



From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:
LUCAS & CO.
Attn. Lucas, Brian Ronald
135 Westhall Road
Warlingham, Surrey CR6 9HJ
UNITED KINGDOM

INVITATION TO PAY ADDITIONAL FEES

(PCT Article 17(3)(a) and Rule 40.1)

REGISTERED MAIL

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Date of mailing (day/month/year) 17/11/2004</p> | |
| Applicant's or agent's file reference DQ, 015 - PCT | PAYMENT DUE within 45 XIXXIX days from the above date of mailing |
| International application No. PCT/GB2004/003431 | International filing date (day/month/year) 09/08/2004 |
| Applicant VARCO I/P, INC. | |

1. This International Searching Authority

- (i) considers that there are 2 (number of) inventions claimed in the international application covered by the claims indicated ~~XIXXIX~~ on the extra sheet:

and it considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2 and 13.3) for the reasons indicated ~~XIXXIX~~ on the extra sheet:

- (ii) has carried out a partial international search (see Annex) will establish the international search report on those parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:
see annex

- (iii) will establish the international search report on the other parts of the international application only if, and to the extent to which, additional fees are paid

2. The applicant is hereby **invited**, within the time limit indicated above, to pay the amount indicated below:

EUR 1.550,00 x 1 = EUR 1.550,00
Fee per additional invention number of additional inventions total amount of additional fees

Or, _____ x _____ = _____

The applicant is informed that, according to Rule 40.2(c), the payment of any additional fee may be made under protest, i.e., a reasoned statement to the effect that the international application complies with the requirement of unity of invention or that the amount of the required additional fee is excessive.

3. Claim(s) Nos. _____ have been found to be unsearchable under Article 17(2)(b) because of defects under Article 17(2)(a) and therefore have not been included with any invention.

| | |
|---|--|
| Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority  European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016 | Authorized officer Chrystalla Louca-Dreher |
|---|--|

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-23

An apparatus for handling pipe, comprising a body with an open throat for receiving the pipe and at least one jaw for engaging the pipe.

2. claims: 24-32

A drilling rig comprising a platform with a wellcentre, a preparation opening and a rotatable tower on which pipe can be rotated about.

The subject-matter of claim 1 is not new against GB-267073 A which discloses an apparatus for facilitating handling pipe, the apparatus comprising a body (A) defining an open throat (b), and at least one jaw (C) having a concave side (12a) for engaging a pipe the concave side having two opposed ends (12b, 12c) characterised in that said at least one jaw further comprises a jaw portion (see fig.7) extending behind said concave side, said jaw portion hingedly (13) mounted to said body between said two opposed ends about which said at least one jaw is rotatable with respect to the body to engage a pipe (a). GB-267073 also discloses the subject-matter of claims 2-5, therefore none of the features of claims 1-5 contributes over the prior art, so that no "special technical features" in the meaning of Rule 13.2 PCT can be identified in claims 1-5.

The "special technical feature" of claim 6 is that the pin is removably fixed to said body using a locking pin. The problem objectively solved by said feature is to allow a fast and easy dismounting of the jaws from the body.

The "special technical feature" of claim 24 is a rotatable tower on a drilling rig comprising a platform with a wellcentre and a preparation opening. The problem solved by said feature is to permit preliminary assembly of sections of pipe strings.

The "special technical features" of the two groups of inventions are therefore different, solve different problems and can be implemented independently one from the others. No technical relationship is present therefore between the "special technical features" of the two groups of inventions and the application does therefore (Rule 13.2 PCT) not meet the requirements of unity of invention in the sense of Rule 13.1 PCT.

The application relates to a plurality of inventions, or groups of inventions, in the sense of Rule 13.1 PCT. They have been divided as defined above. If the applicant pays additional fees for one (or more) not yet searched group(s) of invention(s), then the further search(es) may reveal further prior art that gives evidence of a further lack of unity 'a posteriori' within one (or more) of the not yet searched group(s). In such a case only the first invention in this (each of these) group(s) of inventions, which is considered to lack unity of invention, will be the subject of a search. No further invitation to pay further

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International application No.

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additional fees will be issued. This is because Article 17(3)(a) PCT stipulates that the ISA shall establish the International Search Report on those parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in the claims ('main invention') and for those parts which relate to inventions in respect of which the additional fees were paid. Neither the PCT nor the PCT guidelines provide a legal basis for further invitations to pay further additional search fees (W17/00, point 11 and W1/97, points 11-16).

Annex to Form PCT/ISA/206
COMMUNICATION RELATING TO THE RESULTS
OF THE PARTIAL INTERNATIONAL SEARCH

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|--|
| International Application No PCT/GB2004/003431 |
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1. The present communication is an Annex to the invitation to pay additional fees (Form PCT/ISA/206). It shows the results of the international search established on the parts of the international application which relate to the invention first mentioned in claims Nos.:

see 'Invitation to pay additional fees'
2. This communication is not the international search report which will be established according to Article 18 and Rule 43.
3. If the applicant does not pay any additional search fees, the information appearing in this communication will be considered as the result of the international search and will be included as such in the international search report.
4. If the applicant pays additional fees, the international search report will contain both the information appearing in this communication and the results of the international search on other parts of the international application for which such fees will have been paid.

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category * | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|---|------------------------------|
| X | GB 267 073 A (DUNN MFG COMPANY) 19 May 1927 (1927-05-19) | 1-5, 7-14, 21-23 |
| Y | page 2, line 10 – page 3, line 32; figures 1,2,5-8 | 16,17 |
| Y | US 6 073 699 A (HOLLINGSWORTH JR JIMMY L) 13 June 2000 (2000-06-13) cited in the application column 5, line 23 – line 26 | 16,17 |
| X | US 1 558 261 A (GRADY FRANK W) 20 October 1925 (1925-10-20) | 1-4, 7-12,14, 18,21-23 |
| | the whole document | ----- |
| X | US 1 814 990 A (WESTON BURTON G) 14 July 1931 (1931-07-14) | 1-5, 7-14, 21-23 |
| | the whole document | ----- |
| X | US 1 690 709 A (WEBSTER WILSON WILLIAM) 6 November 1928 (1928-11-06) | 1-5, 7-14, 21-23 |
| | the whole document | ----- |

Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

"&" document member of the same patent family

Patent Family Annex

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB2004/003431

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|--|------------------|
| GB 267073 | A 19-05-1927 | NONE | | |
| US 6073699 | A 13-06-2000 | AU 3266199 A | | 20-09-1999 |
| | | CA 2321679 A1 | | 10-09-1999 |
| | | EP 1060322 A1 | | 20-12-2000 |
| | | WO 9945230 A1 | | 10-09-1999 |
| | | US 6056060 A | | 02-05-2000 |
| US 1558261 | A 20-10-1925 | NONE | | |
| US 1814990 | A 14-07-1931 | NONE | | |
| US 1690709 | A 06-11-1928 | NONE | | |